

Appl. No. 10/520,888

Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A silver halide color photographic material comprising a substrate, having thereon a yellow color image forming layer, a magenta color image forming layer and a cyan color image forming layer, all of which incorporate photosensitive silver halide grains, wherein, when the silver halide color photographic material is exposed with a laser light at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds per one pixel, and then is subjected to photographic processing to obtain a color image, the difference of VE values ( $\Delta VE$ ) of the color image, between a maximum VE value and a minimum VE value, is between ~~0.0-0.2~~ greater than 0.08 and 0.2, in which VE is an effective gradation region of each color image forming layer in the obtained color image.

2. (Original) The silver halide color photographic material of claim 1, wherein at least one color image forming layer comprises a four equivalent coupler.

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**3. (Original)** The silver halide color photographic material of claim 1, wherein at least one color image-forming layer comprises the silver halide grains containing a metal of the 8th to 10th groups in the periodic table.

**4. (Original)** The silver halide color photographic material of claim 2, wherein at least one color image forming layer comprises the silver halide grains containing a metal of the 8th to 10th groups in the periodic table.

**5. (Original)** The silver halide color photographic material of claim 3, wherein the metal of the 8th to 10th groups in the periodic table is contained in the silver halide grains as a metal complex having at least one ligand of nitrosyl or imidazole.

**6. (Original)** The silver halide color photographic material of claim 4, wherein the metal of the 8th to 10th groups in the periodic table is contained in the silver halide grains as a metal complex having at least one ligand of nitrosyl or imidazole.

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**7. (Original)** An image forming method comprising the steps of:

a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 1, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds per pixel, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

**8. (Original)** The image forming method comprising the steps of:

a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 2, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

**9. (Original)** The image forming method comprising the steps of:

a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 3, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

**10. (Original)** The image forming method comprising the steps of:

a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 4, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds, and b)

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conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

**11. (Original)** The image forming method comprising the steps of: a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 5, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  to seconds, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

**12. (Original)** The image forming method comprising the steps of: a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 6, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

**13. (New)** The silver halide photographic material of claim 1 wherein the difference in VE values ( $\Delta VE$ ) is between 0.09 and 0.2.